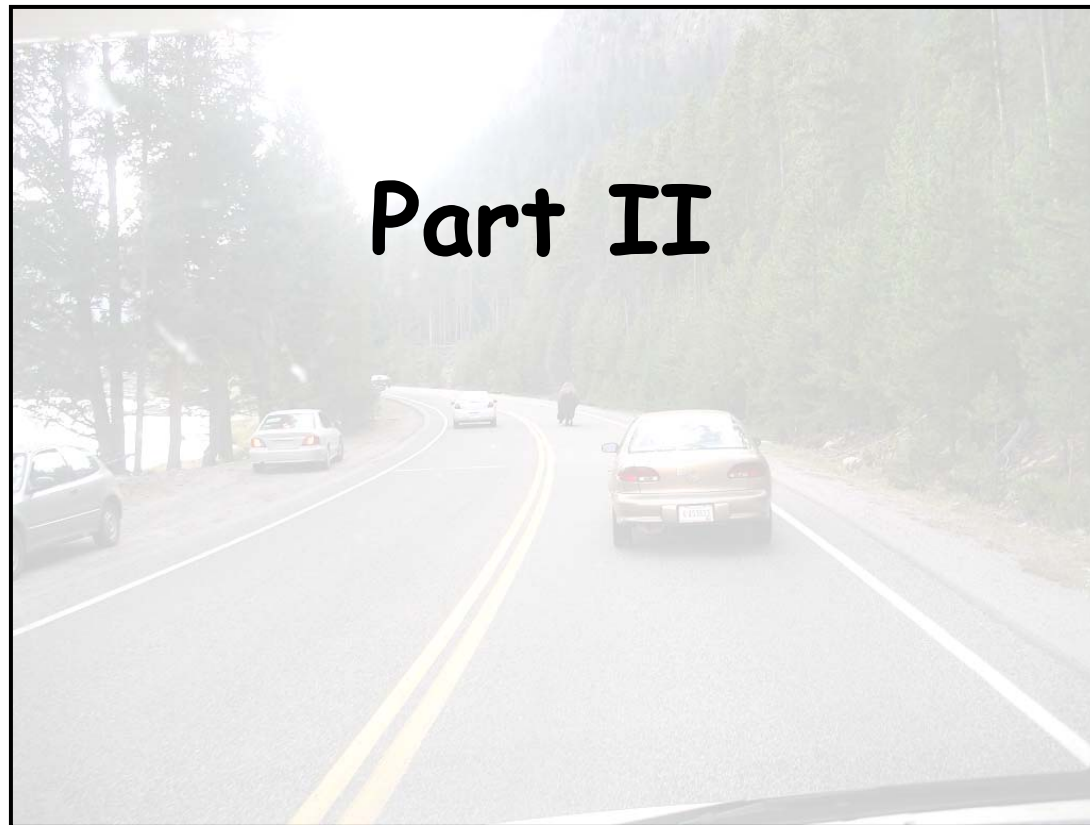


Montana Driver Education and Training

Strategies for Sharing the Road with Other Users



Standards and Benchmarks

1. Laws and Highway System

- a. know the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual
- b. understand the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual
- c. consistently demonstrate knowledge and understanding by responsible adherence to highway transportation system traffic laws and control devices

2. Responsibility

- a. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a vehicle
- b. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle
- c. consistently display respect for other users of the highway transportation system
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to responsible driving

3. Visual Skills

- a. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- b. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- c. demonstrate the use of proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills

4. Vehicle Control

- a. demonstrate smooth, safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle
- b. develop habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.



Standards and Benchmarks

5. Communication

- a. consistently communicate their driving intentions (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals)
- b. adjust their driver behavior based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- c. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals) based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- d. develop habits and attitudes relative to effective communication

6. Risk Management

- a. understand driver risk-management principles
- b. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies
- c. develop driver risk-management habits and attitudes

7. Lifelong Learning

- a. understand past, present and future vehicle and roadway design, and driving cultures
- c. understand benefits of a lifelong learning approach to driving
- e. identify opportunities for lifelong education in driving

8. Driving Experience

- a. acquire at least the minimum number of BTW hours over at least the minimum number of days, as required by law, with a Montana approved driver education instructor
- b. be encouraged to acquire additional BTW driving experience with their parent or guardian's assistance in a variety of driving situations (i.e., night, adverse weather, gravel road, etc.).



Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Vehicles of different sizes and power handle differently
- Small vehicles like motorcycles are light and can accelerate quickly
- Large trucks and recreational vehicles require lots of power to accelerate to highway speeds and require longer stopping distance
- The size and weight of trucks and other large vehicles limit their maneuverability and create large blind spots for their drivers



Sharing the Road with Trucks



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

- Drivers must be aware of these differences and how to share the road with trucks, buses, recreational vehicles and other large vehicles
- Large vehicles create air turbulence
- To minimize turbulence impact stay in lane position three and hold the steering wheel firmly
- Be prepared to make steering corrections



Sharing the Road with Trucks



A study by the AAA Foundation identified five unsafe behaviors by car drivers that contribute to car-truck collisions:

- 1. Failing to stay in their lane**
- 2. Failing to yield right of way**
- 3. Excessive Speed**
- 4. Failing to obey traffic control devices and laws**
- 5. Inattention**



Sharing the Road with Trucks



Generally speaking, the bigger the vehicles are:

- The bigger their blind spots
- The more room they need to maneuver
- The longer it takes them to stop
- The longer it takes to pass them
- The more likely you're going to be the loser in a collision



Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Drivers are at a serious disadvantage if involved in a crash with a larger vehicle
- Studies have shown that the passenger car driver is at fault in 70 percent of the fatal crashes involving passenger cars and large trucks



Source: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCAA)



Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Of all two-vehicle crashes between large trucks and passenger vehicles, 35 percent occur in the blind spots that exist on all four sides of commercial vehicle
- These blind spots are known as the "No Zone"
- From 1992 through 2001, more than 50,000 people were killed in crashes involving large commercial trucks — approximately 40,000 were passengers in other vehicles
- In collisions between passenger vehicles and large commercial trucks, the occupants of passenger vehicles are 15 times more likely to be killed than truck occupants
- In 2004, there were 634 large truck single trailer crashes in Montana, and 103 double trailer crashes



Source: Montana Department of Transportation



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Montana Office of Public Instruction
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Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

Sharing the Road with Trucks



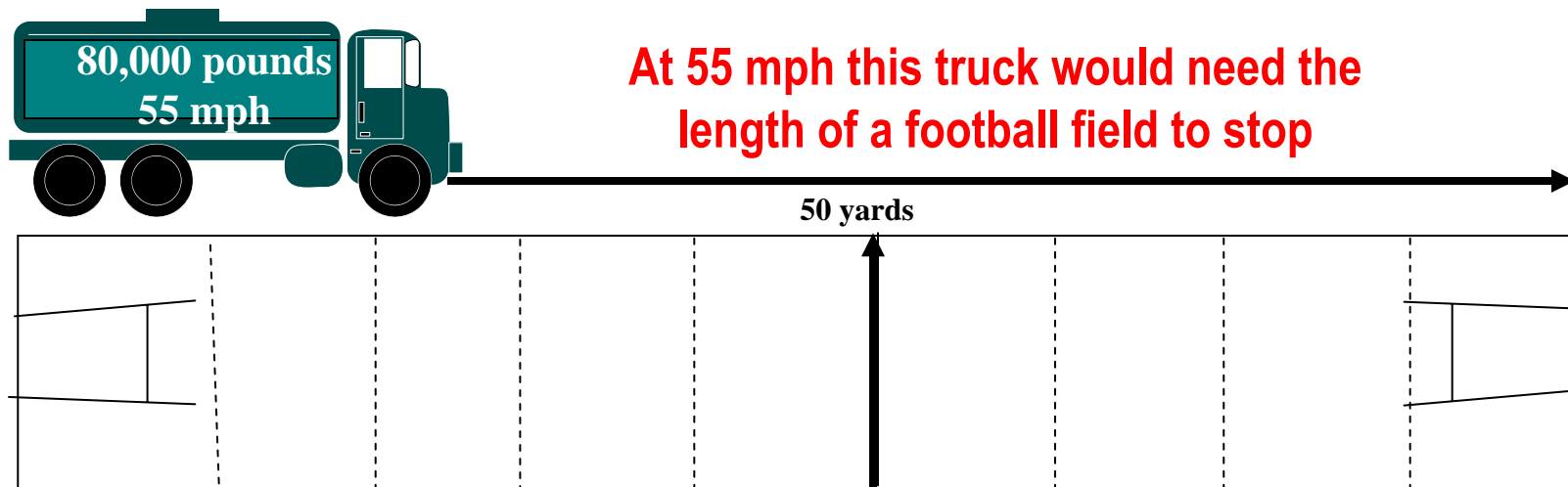
- Young drivers are of particular concern
- Perhaps due to their lack of driving experience, young drivers are involved in a disproportionate percentage of accidents
- In 2004, drivers under age 21 made up only 9 percent of the licensed drivers in Montana, but were involved in over 23 percent of all crashes and 20 percent of all fatal crashes statewide



Sharing the Road with Trucks



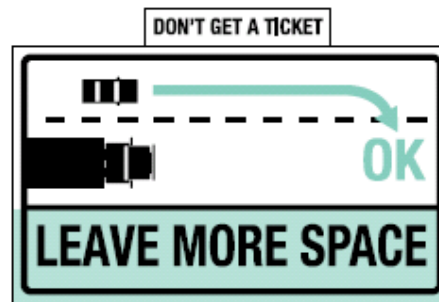
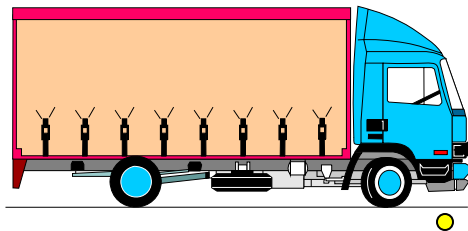
- Know and use safe driving strategies when sharing the road with large commercial vehicles
- Large trucks have much greater stopping distance than passenger vehicles
- Trucks need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars do
- Most fully-loaded 18 wheelers weigh as much as 80,000 pounds



Sharing the Road with Trucks



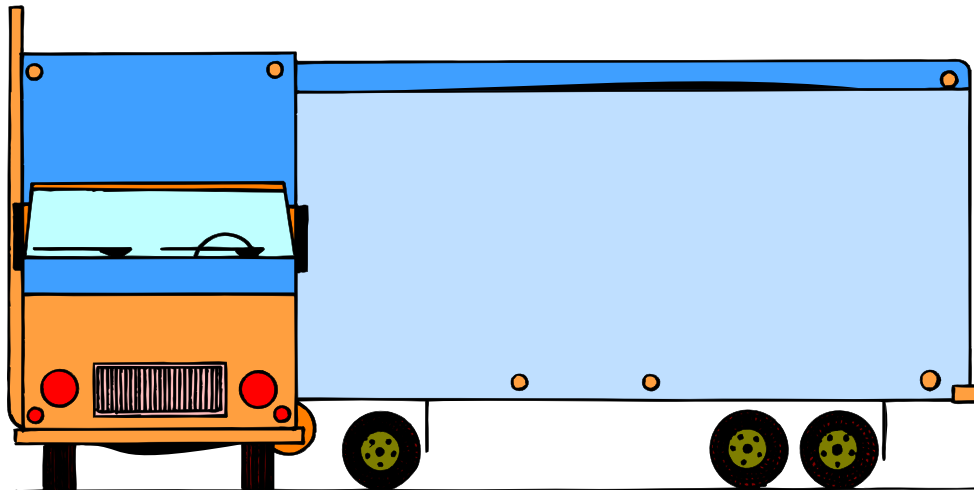
- More than 60 percent of fatal truck crashes involve impacts with the front of a truck
- Safe driving strategy: Wait until you can see the whole front of the truck in your rearview mirror before pulling in front of it — never, ever cut in quickly in front of a truck



Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Once in front of a truck, do not slow down
- Backing up - When a truck is backing up, it sometimes must temporarily block the street to maneuver its trailer accurately
- Never pass close behind a truck that is preparing to back up or is in the process of backing up
- Remember, most trailers are eight-feet wide and can completely hide objects that suddenly come between the truck and a loading area



Trucks NO-ZONES



- Large trucks have large blind spots in front of, behind, and on both sides of the vehicle--the larger the truck, the larger the blind spots--a car virtually disappears from the view of the driver
- Most drivers may not realize that large commercial trucks do not have an inside rearview mirror
- Truck drivers rely solely on their side view mirrors which cause the large blind spots on both sides of the vehicle—nighttime adds to the visibility problem

**3rd
largest
blind
spot**



**Right side
has the
largest
blind spot**



Don't Hang Out in the NO ZONE



If the driver's face can't be seen in their side view mirror, you can't be seen

- **Rear no-zone:** Truck drivers can't see directly behind the truck for at least 30 feet
- Never tailgate a large truck; the driver will never see you in that position
- **Front no-zone:** Position at least 10 car lengths in front of the vehicle; trucks need long distances to stop
- **Side no-zones:** Do not linger in the side no-zones
- **Wide right turns:** large trucks make wide right turns by swinging out to the left to allow room for the right turn

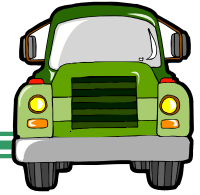
3rd largest blind spot



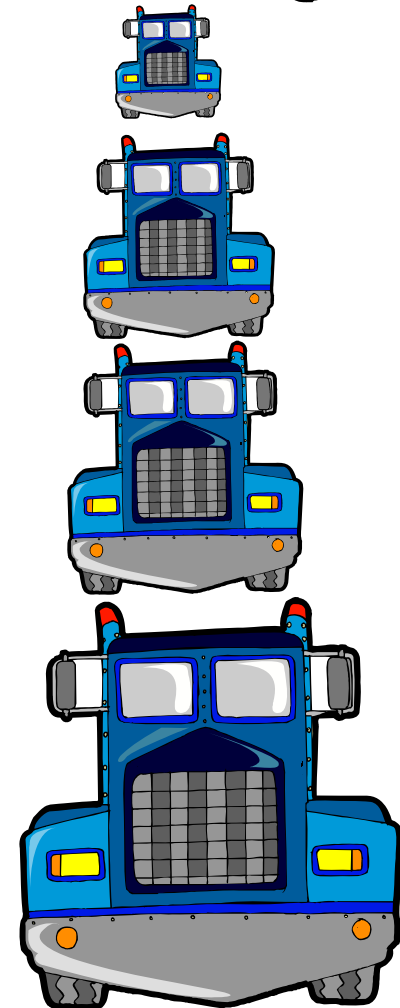
Right side has the largest blind spot



Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer
- A large tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed because of its large size
- Many car versus large truck collisions take place at intersections because the car driver did not realize how close the truck was or how quickly it was traveling



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Sharing the Road with Trucks



- Always buckle up
- Seat belts are the best protection in case of a crash, especially with a large vehicle such as a truck
- A seat belt will keep a driver from striking the steering wheel or windshield, being thrown around, and from being ejected from the car
- Wearing a seat belt is the single most important thing the driver and occupants can do to save a life, especially in a crash with a large truck



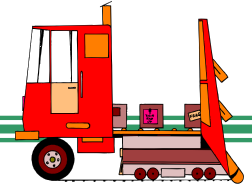
Bus Lanes



- Bus lanes are intended to save time for bus riders by enabling them to bypass the areas of heaviest traffic congestion such as a business district
- Bus lanes are identified by the HOV diamond and usually the words “Bus Only”
- Use of the bus lane is restricted to buses



Construction Vehicles



- Construction vehicles are typically very large, and when loaded, very heavy
- Acceleration and braking takes more time
- The heavy vehicle will have a longer stopping distance
- The blind areas around the vehicle can be large and restrictive
- Use reduced risk driving skills when sharing the roadway with construction vehicles



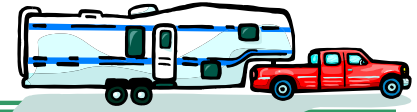
Recreational Vehicles



- Recreational motor homes can be 40 feet long, not including a tow vehicle
- Visibility is a major problem—this vehicle can block the following driver's line-of-sight—increase following distance to improve line-of-sight



Towed Vehicles



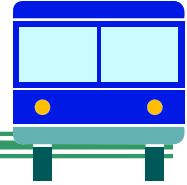
- Vehicles can be seen towing a variety of trailers: conventional travel trailers, including folding trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, motorcycle, boat, and cargo trailers
- Watch for trailers swaying in high winds, particularly side winds, or when passing approaching larger vehicles—**increase following distance**
 - Check that the trailer load is securely fastened—if not, increase space away from the trailer



When traveling uphill, leave a larger following distance from the vehicle towing a trailer—expect the trailer to reduce speed during the uphill climb



Oversized Vehicles



- When mobile homes are being transported, they are often preceded and followed by vehicles that carry a “Wide Load” sign
- Pilot cars help warn motorists of oversized loads and/or slow moving vehicles
- Take extra precautions when you see oversized vehicles



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



Work Zone Statistics



Montana's enhanced fine for violation of work zone law is two times the fine cost

Nationally, in 2002, there were 1,181 work zone fatalities; this figure represents 2.8 percent of all roadway fatalities for that year

- **Four out of every five work zone fatalities were motorists**
- **There is one work zone fatality every seven hours (three a day)**
- **There is one work zone injury every 15 minutes (143 a day)**



Who is responsible for work zone safety?



Everyone—if you walk, drive, or bicycle through work zones

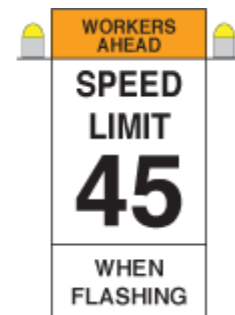
- Engineers are responsible for safe work zone design and work operation
- Drivers and pedestrians have the responsibility to always be alert and obey the traffic
- Police and the courts have the responsibility to make sure that the traffic and work zone laws are enforced.
- Public safety agencies have the responsibility of responding to and securing crash locations and enforcing traffic laws



Work Zone Safety Signs



- Orange signs alert you to construction and maintenance areas ahead
- Barricades, vertical panels, drums, and cones alert drivers



Work Zone Safety Signs



- **WORKERS AHEAD:** signs are posted far enough ahead to give drivers time to adjust speed for any unusual conditions



- **FLAG PERSON:** Warns that there is a flag person ahead



Work Zone Safety Signs



- **WORK AREAS:** Traffic cones, drums and barricades mark a path to follow in a construction area



Work Zone Safety Signs



- **WARNING LIGHTS AND FLASHING ARROWS:**
used day and night to give advance warning and directional information to drivers



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



Work Zone Safety—10 Tips



1. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
2. SLOW DOWN!
3. DON'T TAILGATE
4. KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT
5. PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS
6. OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS
7. STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS
8. KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW
9. SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEB SITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION
10. BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM



Snowplows



- Snowplows travel slowly, usually 25-30 mph
- When driving behind one, resist the temptation to pass - road conditions could be much worse in front of the plow
- Snowplow drivers need to concentrate on their task and the road conditions in front of them, so they may not spot a vehicle trying to pass



Snowplows



- Some snowplows are equipped with a "wing plow," an eight foot extension off the right side of the truck that allows the operator to clear snow from the driving lane and shoulder at the same time
- The wing plows are hard to see, so never, never pass a snowplow on the right
- Plows are not just removing snow, they also spread sand or deicer on the road
- Leave enough room between the plow and your vehicle to avoid being peppered with grit or sprayed with deicer



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



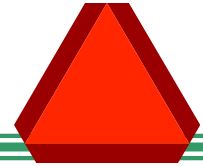
Funeral Processions



- **Never pass a funeral procession**
- **Funeral processions can be a few cars or vehicles covering a mile or more**
- **Police officers need unhindered lanes to speed by the procession to block off side streets or guide the cars through dangerous intersections**
- **Even though it is the law to yield the right of way, it is also a sign of respect for the deceased and their family**
- **Pull over to the curb and wait for the procession to pass before continuing on**



Slow-Moving Farm Vehicles



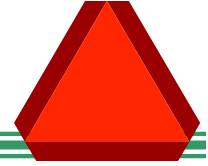
- The most common farm vehicle accident occurs when a slow-moving vehicle makes a left turn after the motorist behind begins to pass
- Recognize and respect the slow-moving vehicle emblem – the triangular fluorescent orange emblem bordered in red--slow down as if approaching a stoplight
- Don't assume that a slow-moving vehicle pulling to the right side of the road is going to turn right or is going to let a driver pass



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



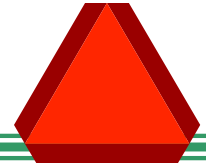
Slow-Moving Farm Vehicles



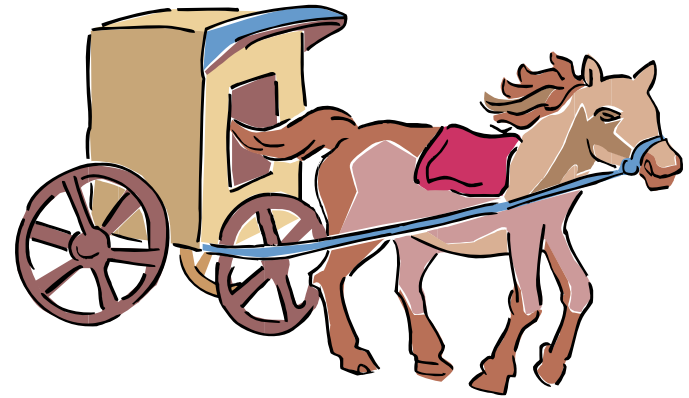
- Slow down when a slow-moving vehicle's flashing turn signal is seen
- Be patient--it's not easy for the operator to move aside to let others pass, especially when road shoulders are questionable
- Don't pull out in front of a slow-moving farm vehicle, then stop or slow down rapidly
- Farm equipment cannot stop or slow down as quickly as an automobile



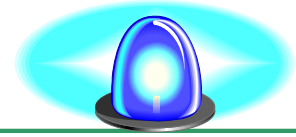
Horse-Drawn Vehicles



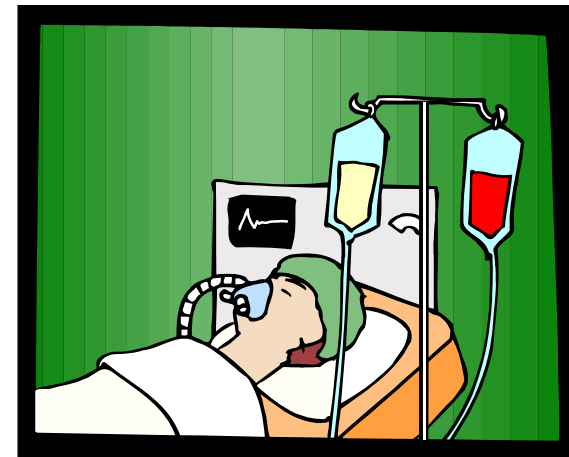
- When encountering horse-drawn vehicles, adjust speed
- The horse-drawn vehicle should display a slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear
- Pass with caution--while passing, do not use the horn and do not rev the engine, it could scare the horse and cause an accident



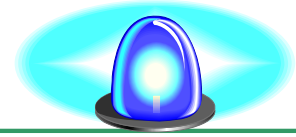
Emergency Vehicles



- The sound of a siren, air horn, and strobe lights alert the public
- There are different types of emergency vehicles encountered on the roadways:
 - Police
 - Ambulance
 - Fire
 - Incident Response Vehicle
 - Helicopters (Life Flight)



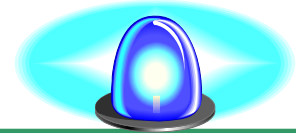
Emergency Vehicles



- An emergency is happening at that very moment that may include fires (structure, vehicle, land), medical emergencies, vehicle crashes with injuries, rescues, hazardous materials incidents or trauma
- Sometimes drivers don't notice the emergency vehicle because they are not paying attention—such as the car sound system is turned up so loud the sirens can't be heard



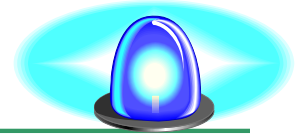
Emergency Vehicles



- The size, length and weight of fire engines greatly increases their stopping distance
- The driver of an emergency vehicle may disregard regulations that apply to the general public, such as the direction of travel, turns, and parking



Emergency Vehicles Have the Right of Way



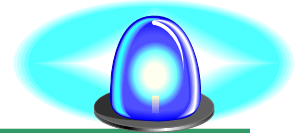
- Drivers must immediately drive as close as possible to the right edge of the roadway
- On one-way streets, drivers should pull to the right or left—whichever is the nearest curb
- If it is impractical to stop on the right side of the roadway, clear a path and stop and stay stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed



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Emergency Vehicles Have the Right of Way



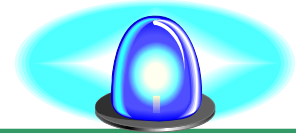
- Do NOT block intersections, driveways, or other roadways
- Follow the instructions of the emergency staff (police, fire, flagger, etc.)
- Do NOT stop at the scene of an emergency unless you are asked to do so
- Don't gawk or rubberneck



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Emergency Vehicles—Fire Trucks



Montana Law prohibits following fire apparatus

- **The operator of a vehicle other than one on official business may not follow a fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire call closer than 500 feet or drive into or stop the vehicle within 500 feet of where the fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire call**
- **Do NOT drive over fire hoses or any other emergency equipment**
- **Stay a minimum of 500 feet from a fire truck**

